

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

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TOSEC 168

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)
SUBJ: FOREIGN PRESS REACTIONS

REF: SECTO 18
TO EAGLEBURGER FROM HYLAND

1. FOLLOWING IS SECOND INR ROUNDUP OF FOREIGN PRESS REACTIONS TO SALZBURG PRESS CONFERENCE AVAILABLE AS OF 1400 EDT, JUNE 13:

2. BRITAIN: TWO PAPERS CAME TO THE SECRETARY'S DEFENSE.

(A) THE TIMES EXPRESSED THE BELIEF THAT WHAT THE SECRETARY HAS BEEN ACCUSED OF DOING "IS NOT COMPARABLE TO THE VAST WEB OF MALPRACTICE THAT HAS BEEN EXPOSED....IT WOULD BE WRONG AND DEEPLY DAMAGING TO THE US AND HER ALLIES IF A JUSTIFIABLE INQUIRY BECOMES A MANHUNT."

(B) THE DAILY TELEGRAPH PRAISED THE SECRETARY'S ABILITIES AND ASSERTED THAT HE WOULD "NATURALLY BE CONCERNED TO STOP
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INFORMATION LEAKS ON FOREIGN POLICY MATTERS...." IT ADDED

THAT "IF TELEPHONE TAPPING WAS NEEDED TO TRACE LEAKS, IT WOULD BE RIGHT FOR THIS TO BE DONE AFTER THE PROPER AUTHORIZATION...." THE PAPER CONCLUDED THAT IF THE SECRETARY IS DRIVEN TO RESIGNATION, WASHINGTON WILL BE A LAUGHING-STOCK."

3. FRANCE:

(A) THE LEFT-WING COMBAT STATED THAT THE SECRETARY'S POSSIBLE ELIMINATION FROM THE POLITICAL SCENE, "IN BRANDT FASHION," WOULD BE ANOTHER "SEVERE BLOW" FOR THE PRESIDENT. THE PAPER WENT ON TO SAY THAT THE SALZBURG PRESS CONFERENCE WAS NOT IN THE SECRETARY'S CHARACTER, AND THAT HE MAY HAVE ADOPTED THIS ATTITUDE BECAUSE HE POSSIBLY CONSIDERS THE IMPEACHMENT OF THE PRESIDENT TO BE INEVITABLE AND WANTED "TO LEAVE THE SINKING SHIP IN TIME." THE PAPER EXPRESSED THE BELIEF THAT THE SECRETARY HAS "UNQUESTIONABLY" COMMITTED PERJURY; IT FOUND IT DIFFICULT TO BELIEVE "THAT THE NO. 1 CONFIDENTIAL ADVISER IN THE WHITE HOUSE WAS KEPT OUT OF WATERGATE SECRETS."

(B) THE GAULLIST LA NATION WONDERED WHETHER IT IS ALL NOT JUST A "BLUFF AIMED AT PREVENTING AMERICAN DOMESTIC AFFAIRS FROM POISONING NIXON DURING HIS VISITS ABROAD." IT ASKED WHETHER THE SECRETARY IS REALLY CONTEMPLATING LEAVING THE POLITICAL SCENE.

4. GERMANY: A SIGNED EDITORIAL IN DIE WELT BY DIETER CYCON BLAMED THE GENERAL WATERGATE ATMOSPHERE FOR WHAT THE WRITER REGARDED AS FULLY UNWARRANTED ATTACKS ON THE SECRETARY PERSONALLY AND ON HIS ACHIEVEMENTS. CYCON SAID THAT A "CROSS BETWEEN AN EXTRA-PARLIAMENTARY OPPOSITION, POLITICAL MAFIA, AND SHADOW GOVERNMENT INADEQUATELY CALLED 'LIBERAL'", OPPOSED THE SECRETARY BECAUSE, "BY BEING TRIUMPHANT IN THE FIELD OF FOREIGN POLICY," HE HAD "INADVERTENTLY STRENGTHENED NIXON'S BACK." AND THE EDITORIAL CONTINUED: "KISSINGER MAY BE UNABLE TO EXTRICATE HIMSELF FROM THIS ENTANGLEMENT, AND CONCERN AND SYMPATHY FOR HIM IN THE WORLD MAY NOT HELP HIM....HIS CRITICS IN AMERICA...DO NOT CARE ABOUT SALT, EUROPE, AND CONFIDENTIAL

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THE MIDDLE EAST. ALL THEY CARE ABOUT IS POWER IN WASHINGTON....(BUT) THEY MAY HAVE OVERDONE THINGS BY LAUNCHING THEIR LATEST COUP. PERHAPS A MAJORITY IN THE US WILL REALIZE THAT AMERICA CANNOT AFFORD SUCH EXTRAVAGANCE BY AN EXTRA-PARLIAMENTARY OPPOSITION AND FINALLY WILL ESTABLISH LIMITS FOR ITS ACTIONS."

5. ITALY: THE NEW YORK CORRESPONDENT OF THE CENTER-LEFT

IL GIORNO ASSERTED: "AMERICANS ARE DETERMINED TO CLOSE THEIR EYES OVER THE 'SUPER HENRY' CASE. MOST AMERICANS ARE READY TO ACQUIT HIM." DURING COVERAGE OF THE PRESIDENT'S CAIRO ARRIVAL, AN ITALIAN TV COMMENTATOR SAID THAT SOME ARAB PAPERS MAINTAIN THAT CRITICISM OF THE SECRETARY IS PART OF A PLOT BY PRO-ISRAEL AMERICANS WHO ARE OUT TO

GET HIM BECAUSE HE DID NOT SUPPORT ISRAEL "ALL THE WAY" AGAINST THE ARABS.

6. BELGIUM: THE MASS-CIRCULATION INDEPENDENT LA MEUSE/LA LANTERNE SAID: "THE MAN WHO OPENED THE ROAD TO PEKING AND MOSCOW, WHO ARRANGED TO PULL THE US OUT OF VIETNAM, WHO FINALLY GAVE THE NEAR EAST HOPE FOR PEACE...HAS TO FACE HIS COUNTRY'S AGGRESSIVE, PEEVISH, AND ACCUSING JOURNALISTS....TIS MISERABLE CASE OF TELEPHONE TAPPING--WHICH EVERYONE KNOWS IS PRACTICED IN ALL COUNTRIES--WILL PERHAPS PUT KISSINGER AT THE CENTER OF A NEW SCANDAL ARTIFICIALLY STIRRED OUT OF POLITICAL HATREDS....SURPRISING DEMOCRACY, AMERICA, WHICH FORGETS SIMPLE FAIR PLAY."

7. USSR: THERE HAS STILL BEEN NO SOVIET REPORTING OR COMMENT ON THE SECRETARY'S SALZBURG CONFERENCE.

8. HUNGARY: A BUDAPEST TV COMMENTARY BLAMED THE ATTACKS ON THE SECRETARY UPON THOSE OPPOSED TO DETENTE. IT SAID THAT THE "NIXON AND KISSINGER POLICY" ON THE MIDDLE EAST CANNOT PLEASE EVERYONE, AND THOSE FORCES IN OPPOSITION TO IT ARE USING THIS AS A MEANS OF UNDERMINING THE PRESIDENT'S VISIT.

9. YUGOSLAVIA: TANJUG CITED THE ARAB PRESS WHICH HAD LABELLED THE CHARGES AGAINST THE SECRETARY AS A "ZIONIST CONFIDENTIAL

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CONSPIRACY" AIMED AT UNDERMINING THE PRESIDENT'S MISSION TO THE MIDDLE EAST. BELGRADE RADIO COMMENTED THAT THE PRESIDENT IS "NOT THE CREATOR OF FOREIGN POLICY, BUT IT IS SOMEBODY ELSE, AND THIS OTHER PERSON, HENRY KISSINGER, ALTHOUGH YESTERDAY HE DRAMATICALLY THREATENED RESIGNATION, HAS ALL THE CHANCES TO SURVIVE POLITICALLY BOTH THE PRESENT AND WHO KNOWS HOW MANY FUTURE PRESIDENTS."

10. ISRAEL: THE JERUSALEM POST SAID THAT MOST WORLD CAPITALS WOULD CONSIDER IT A SEVERE BLOW TO CURRENT EFFORTS TO DEEPEN INTERNATIONAL STABILITY IF THE SECRETARY FELT COMPELLED TO RESIGN.

11. LEBANON: BEIRUT'S PRO-CAIRO AL ANWAR CLAIMED THAT ZIONISM IS NOW USING WATERGATE AS A WEAPON AGAINST THE

SECRETARY AFTER DISENGAGEMENT HAS BEEN ACHIEVED.

12. JORDAN: AMMAN'S AR-RA'Y ALSO SAW ZIONISTS BEHIND THE WATERGATE ATTACK BOTH ON THE PRESIDENT AND ON THE SECRETARY. THE PAPER SAID IT IS AN ALARM BELL WARNING AMERICANS ON THE NATURE OF THE CURRENTS WHICH STEER AMERICA'S FOREIGN POLICY ON MANY OCCASIONS AGAINST AMERICA'S TRUE INTERESTS.

13. CHINA: WE HAVE STILL NOTED NO PRC REACTION.

14. JAPAN: A JAPAN TIMES EDITORIAL COMMENTED: "IT WOULD CERTAINLY BE A BITTER BLOW TO THE HOPES OF BUILDING UP A STRUCTURE OF LASTING PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST IF DR. KISSINGER SHOULD CARRY OUT HIS RESIGNATION THREAT.... PERHAPS THIS IS ONE REASON WHY HE CHOSE THIS MOMENT...TO DEFEND HIS HONOR AND INTEGRITY SO VEHEMENTLY." THE EDITORIAL CONCLUDED THAT "IT SPEAKS HIGHLY FOR THE AMERICAN DEDICATION TO UNCOVERING THE TRUTH THAT ALL PUBLIC OFFICIALS, REGARDLESS OF THEIR ACHIEVEMENTS, ARE SUBJECT EQUALLY TO OPEN SCRUTINY....NO ONE IS SACRED."

15. NORTH VIETNAM: HANOI RADIO SAID THAT THE SECRETARY'S RESIGNATION THREAT "WAS ONLY A PLAY WHICH WAS CAREFULLY STUDIED AND PREPARED BY THE WHITE HOUSE...MAINLY DIRECTED AT BLACKMAILING THE US CONGRESS AND FORCING IT AND US
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PUBLIC OPINION TO LESSEN THEIR PRESSURE OVER THE WATERGATE AFFAIR AND REDUCE THEIR CRITICISM OF THOSE IN THE WHITE HOUSE--ESPECIALLY NIXON." THE COMMENTARY SAID THAT "THIS CRAFTY PLAY ALSO DEMONSTRATES THAT KISSINGER HIMSELF WAS COMPLETELY SULLIED BY THE DIRTY WATERGATE QUAGMIRE."

16. LATIN AMERICA: ALL MAJOR DAILIES IN BRASILIA, BUENOS AIRES, CARACAS, MEXICO CITY, PANAMA CITY, AND SANTIAGO GAVE EXTENSIVE FRONT-PAGE COVERAGE TO THE SECRETARY'S THREATENED RESIGNATION, BUT THERE HAS BEEN NO EDITORIAL COMMENT THUS FAR. SISCO

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